

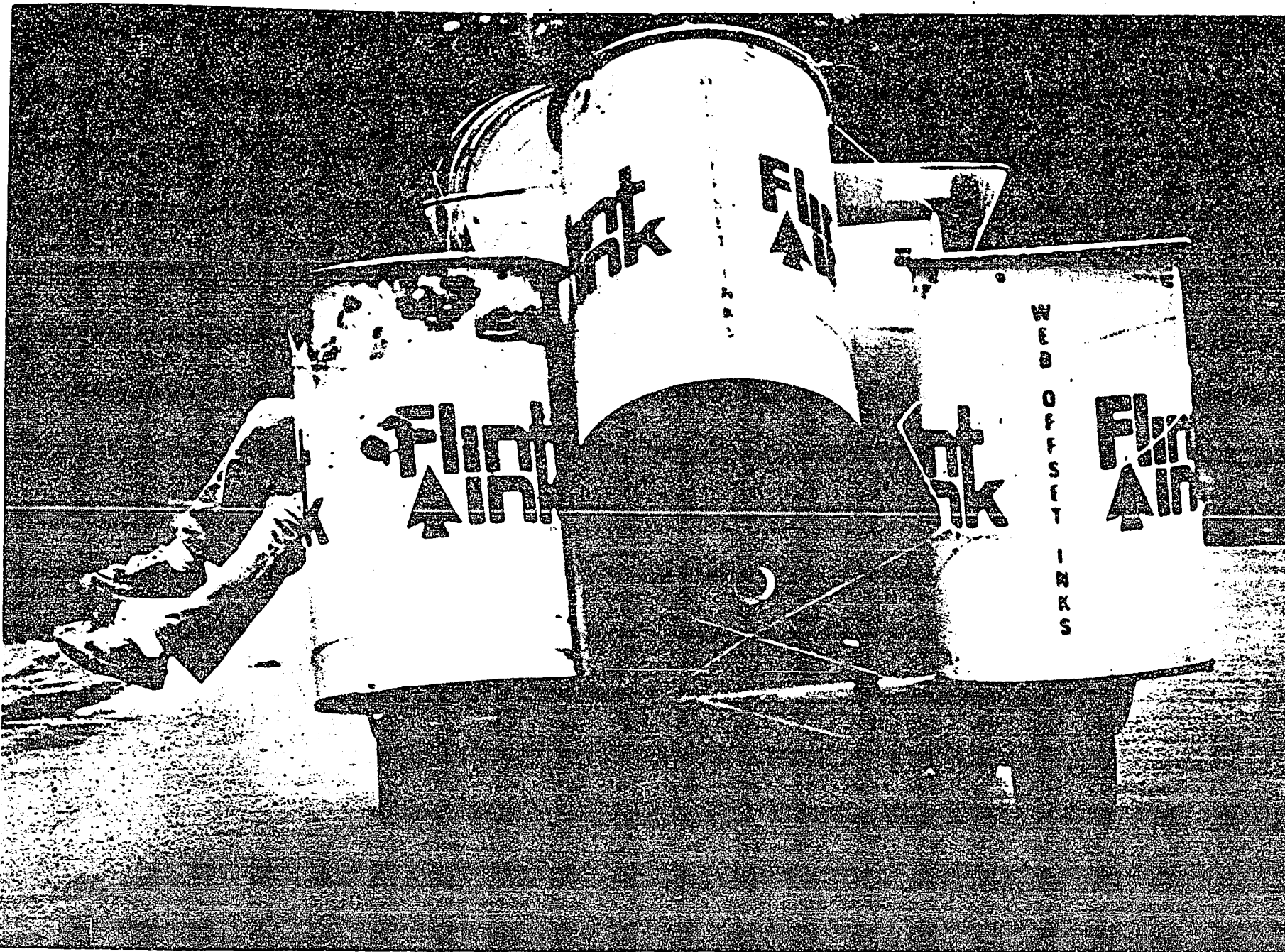
Columbia Missourian

70th Year — No. 265

Good Morning! It's Thursday, July 27, 1978

2 Sections — 24 Pages — 15 Cents

Einstein's brain
found in Kansas
—Story on Page 10A



Raymond K. Gehman

Roll out the barrels

Dan Novinger, 126 Columns IV Trailer Court, maintains a delicate balance as he transports six 55-gallon (14.3-liter) ink drums to his home. Novinger had to tie his car doors shut in order to tie the ink drums to his car, so he entered and exited through the car window.

Novinger, who obtained the empty drums from the Columbia Missourian's pressroom, plans to use them for water storage in a home-built solar heating unit.

Council wary of charter changes

By Mike Robinson
Missourian staff writer

City Council members are reacting cautiously to suggested changes in the city's home rule charter, including a proposal which would allow the mayor to veto council action.

Most proposed changes submitted by Mayor Les Proctor and Sixth Ward Councilman Clyde Wilson would bolster the mayor's strength. Proctor, who has said he will not run for re-election, said the mayor's position needs "upgrading" since the mayor "operates at a considerable disadvantage in Columbia."

The mayor has no private office nor powers to distinguish him from other council members, he said. The position, he said, doesn't have the "leadership like I would like to see it (have)."

Some changes are necessary, Wilson

said, "to make the mayor more responsible and visible as the head of the elected government," since citizen participation in local government has increased tremendously in the past two years.

They suggested having the mayor vote at council meetings only in case of

Insight

a tie, and giving him veto power over the other members. It would take a vote of five of the six other members to override the veto. The mayor now votes anytime he wants and has no veto power.

Wilson and Proctor also submitted proposals to make the mayor a permanent member of the Columbia Water and Light Advisory Board and to have the mayor review the per-

formance of city department heads annually with council participation. These measures would have to be placed on the ballot for the November general election.

Both Wilson and Proctor stress the term "suggestion" and say they are not recommending the proposals.

Although council members agree that some changes could improve the council's ability to serve Columbians, they disagree about the type and extent of charter changes. Wilson said even he and Proctor did not agree about all their suggestions, and said he was "not 100 percent convinced about everything in there."

Much of the concern centers around giving veto power to the mayor and extending the time in office for council persons from two to four years. Third Ward Councilwoman Diane Farish and First Ward Councilman Pat Barnes say

they oppose giving veto power to the mayor.

Barnes said the move would be "putting too much power in the hands of the mayor." He said that although Proctor and former Mayor Bob Pugh would not have posed any problems, he still was concerned that someone "could be elected as mayor who could abuse these powers and could harm the city through that abuse."

In voicing her opposition to the measure, Ms. Farish said, "I don't think five out of the six of us could decide when the sun comes up."

Other members are less certain. Wilson said he had "grave concerns" about the proposal. Fifth Ward Councilwoman Fran Beach, who will resign from the council in September, said the proposal requires more

(See COUNCIL, Page 10A)

U.S. reduces trade deficit significantly

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The United States last month registered its best foreign trade performance in more than a year, with the deficit narrowing to \$1.6 billion, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday.

The better-than-expected showing prompted administration officials to predict continued trade improvement, a firming of the dollar on European exchange markets and an upturn in the stock market.

The \$1.6 billion in red ink was high by historical standards, but was considerably better than in any other month since May 1977, when it was \$641 million, the report said.

In the period from October 1977 through May, the string of monthly deficits had averaged more than \$2.9 billion — a development which crippled the value of the dollar abroad and forced the administration to initiate an aggressive program to step up exports.

June was the first month since last September when the gap between exports and imports dropped below the \$2 billion mark. But it marked the 25th consecutive monthly deficit.

Robert Strauss, the administration's chief trade negotiator and inflation fighter, said the latest trade figures offer "a bit of hope on the horizon."

"It is a positive statistic," he said. "I would hope it is a positive trend."

However, Strauss was critical of Japan, which has accounted for more than one-third of the American deficit so far this year. The administration has been urging the Japanese to help close that gap by buying more American products.

Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps said the trade figures suggest anticipated improvement "has begun to take place."

"Nonetheless," she said, "we still have a long way to go to restore appropriate balance in our foreign trade. Our oil imports remain too large and many experts expected to them to begin rising again."

American oil purchases totaled \$3.5 billion last month, a drop of more than \$100 million from the May level and the second straight decline, the department said.

The administration has consistently maintained that the 1978 trade deficit should be in the range of last year's \$26.56 billion, the highest ever.

Despite the big improvement in June, the total deficit for the first half of the year stood at \$16.37 billion, 42 percent higher than during the same period in 1977.

Exports continued to rise, totaling

\$12.13 billion to establish a new record. The United States stepped up overseas sales of coal, machinery and transportation equipment.

Imports fell for the second straight month, to \$13.72 billion.

Meanwhile, the dollar continued its climb for a second day on European money markets, bolstered by what dealers called "the best U.S. trade figures in many months." But it slipped to yet another record low against the Japanese yen.

The dollar closed stronger on all European markets except Amsterdam. This followed a slight improvement Tuesday, attributed to profiteering by currency speculators.

But dealers in Zurich said the latest rise was related to the improved U.S. trade figures, giving the dollar a boost in late trading. A London dealer said the trade figures were "the best U.S. trade figures in many months."

In Frankfurt the dollar closed at 2.0575 marks against 2.0483 at Tuesday's close. In Zurich, where it opened at a record low Tuesday but improved during the day to close stronger than Monday, the dollar closed Wednesday at 1.7855 Swiss francs, up from Tuesday's close of 1.77875.

In London, it closed at \$1.9120 to the pound, against \$1.9265 at Tuesday's close. In Paris, it closed at 4.40375 francs against 4.3985 at Tuesday's close, and in Brussels it closed at 32.94 Belgian francs against 32.78 and in Milan at 844.30 Lire against 843.90 Tuesday.

In Amsterdam, the dollar closed at 2.2120 guilders, down from 2.2195 at Tuesday's close.

In Tokyo, the announcement of the June trade figures came too late to affect the dollar price and it slumped to a new record low closing of 195.10 yen.

Reacting to the yen's skyrocketing value — which boosts the prices of all Japanese-made goods in relation to American merchandise — Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda ordered his economic ministers to come up with a supplementary budget and other economy-stimulating measures by Sept. 2.

The dollar, which has set new lows on the Tokyo money market each day this week, closed Wednesday at 195.10 yen.

For American tourists in Japan, the dollar's downward spiral was a nightmare.

A cup of coffee at a hotel was \$1.53, a hamburger and french fries cost \$5.11 and a single room at the cheapest tourist hotel went for \$51.15 — plus a surcharge.

Crash of gondola car kills 3 at Six Flags

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — A gondola car carrying four family members high over the crowds at the Six Flags Over Mid-America amusement park slipped off its cable Wednesday and plunged 75 feet (23 meters) to the ground, killing three of the riders and critically injuring the fourth.

The car landed in a clump of bushes, missing the crowds which pass underneath the ride at several spots as it traverses the park.

Pronounced dead at St. Joseph Hospital in Kirkwood were Trisha Weeks, 10, and her cousin, Christian Johnson, 15. Trisha's sister, Janine, 12, was admitted in critical condition and was undergoing surgery.

The third fatality was a man, said to be about 25 years old and an uncle of the two sisters. St. Louis County Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, would not release his identity.

About 100 visitors to the huge amusement park were stranded on the remaining 27 cars of the Skyway ride that resembles a ski lift. Fire departments were called and used snorkel equipment to lower the trapped riders to the ground.

The snorkels had trouble getting to the highest reaches of the ride, which stands more than 125 feet (38 meters) tall in some spots.

"The car dropped off of the first tower," park spokesman Bob Kochan said. "The cable is still intact. It did not snap."

Jerry Stumbridge, a policeman

from Evansville, Ind., who was touring the park with his family, said, "It took a while for the crowd to find out what happened. All of a sudden the Skyway stopped with people stuck in the cars."

"There was no panic, but I'd hate to have been up there and see what those people had to see," Stumbridge said.

The ride is equipped with a safety mechanism that halts it immediately after a malfunction. If not for that mechanism, park officials said the other cars may have plunged to the ground.

Officials immediately shut down all rides and closed the park, issuing complimentary passes to the exiting crowds. Uniformed park guards ushered the subdued park visitors out, and prevented reporters from interviewing those riders who had been trapped on the Skyway.

A Six Flags spokesman said safety experts were being flown in from park headquarters in Los Angeles to determine the cause of the accident.

Bob Halford, a former public relations employee at Six Flags in Dallas and now a manager of the Texas State Fair, was one of the first persons to ride the Skyway when it opened in 1971.

"The safety records on those rides are very high," Halford said. "It really surprises me. There probably isn't a more safety conscious organization in the country than Six Flags."

Dam opponents miffed

Suit filed to halt vote

By Jim Bates
Missourian staff writer

Columbia businessman Harold Cox is taking on the city, the county, Acting City Manager Ray Beck, County Clerk Chris Kelly, City Clerk Glenn Wood, Mayor Les Proctor and the entire City Council in an attempt to scratch the non-binding Meramec Dam referendum from the city's Aug. 8 primary ballot.

Cox named all of them as defendants in a suit he filed with the Boone County Circuit Clerk's office Wednesday afternoon requesting an injunction to stop the special preference election which the City Council approved June 15.

Like a river constantly changing its course, the boundary along West Broadway widens at night and becomes narrower in the morning.

Shortly after daybreak a squad of city personnel implant yellow flags along the road to stand guard over the official surveying width. But at night a band of marauders sneaks in to remove the yellow flags, allowing a series of orange flags to claim a temporary victory.

Public Works Director Ray Beck said employees placed the yellow flags, which define a narrower distance than the orange flags, after his department received approval of the preliminary designs for the proposed widening of

Columbia voters will have the chance to vote on whether construction of the Meramec Dam project should continue.

Cox claims in the suit the special vote is an "illegal, excessive and unnecessary expenditure of city revenue" and, because Boone County wasn't included in the special preference vote bill signed in April by Gov. Joseph Teasdale, Columbians shouldn't have the chance to vote on the issue.

Cox's action drew an angry response from Missourians Against the Meramec Dam. Chairman Lynne Hopkins said the group told Cox Monday it would pay the cost of holding the election and that Cox had told the group he had made his point with the

sidewalk will come, to attend the meeting.

Officials will approve funding a street narrower than the original proposed width of 50 feet (15 meters) between curbs if the city can show "adequate justification," he said. "That's the key, adequate justification. They're willing to discuss it. That's not saying they're willing to change the width."

The West Broadway group had requested that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources declare the area along the street an historical interest area to delay the expansion. Beck said a recent letter from the department said widening the road did not present problems with any historical resources.

City Council.

"For Mr. Cox to proceed with the injunction defeats his originally stated purpose because separating the vote from the ballot will cost taxpayers more money," Ms. Hopkins said. "He's trying to prevent Columbians from exercising their vote on the Meramec Dam issue."

Neither Cox nor his attorney, William Orr, could be reached for comment Wednesday night.

Columbia is the only city outside the Meramec Basin voting on the issue. Jackson County Circuit Judge William Marsh ruled July 12 that the issue could not be placed on the ballot in that county, which includes Kansas City.

Broadway flag battle heats up

By Mike Robinson
Missourian staff writer

West Broadway from the Federal Highway Administration and the Missouri Department of Highways.

Beck, who repeatedly has said the orange flags may be misleading since they were not placed according to approved engineering plans, said he wanted to "caution people who may be" removing the yellow flags "as a joke." Removing official survey flags is illegal, he said.

He also said he will "take a look at the new detail plans" and next week will meet with federal and state highway officials to review the effects that widening will have on the area. Beck said he planned to ask Mayor Les Proctor and a member of Citizens for the Preservation of West Broadway, the group that placed the orange flags to show how close to the houses the

Inside today

Oswald and the CIA

Was a reported 1959 suicide attempt by Lee Harvey Oswald a Russian cover-up? According to newly released records, the CIA thought Oswald may have been brainwashed by the Soviets before he killed John F. Kennedy, and even tried to exhume Oswald's corpse in a search for proof. Details on Page 2A.

Back to the sidelines

Bud Wilkinson, the St. Louis Cardinals' new head coach will get a chance to test himself and his team this Saturday against the Kansas City Chiefs at the University's Memorial Stadium. Read about what Wilkinson has to say about his professional coaching debut in Sports, Page 6A.

In town today

9 a.m. Boone County Court meets, County-City Building.
Noon Film, "Taking Our Bodies Back," Women's Center, Gentry Hall, University, free.
7:30 p.m. "Feiffer's People," Maplewood Barn Theater, Stephens College Warehouse.
8:15 p.m. "Two Gentlemen of Verona," Summer Repertory Theater, University Theater, Hitt Street.
8:15 p.m. Concert, MOSSPAC Chamber Orchestra, Fine Arts Recital Hall, University.

Movie listings on Page 11A